

To: John Wright[wrightjo@frontier.net]
Cc: Peterson, Cynthia[Peterson.Cynthia@epa.gov]; Fagen, Elizabeth[Fagen.Elizabeth@epa.gov]; Wharton, Steve[Wharton.Steve@epa.gov]
From: Schmittiel, Paula
Sent: Mon 3/30/2015 9:27:28 PM
Subject: RE: John Wright from Silverton writes

John – I will send you the link to the USGS paper that the images are from in a separate email. But I can answer your questions about the soils sampling right now.

1. When EPA collects soil samples in urban/residential areas it is to evaluate the potential for human exposure to heavy metals from mining related activities – material handling of ore, milling and smelting. Our sampling procedure is to collect a 5 point soil composite sample from all areas of the property in the 0-2 inches.
2. The exact number of samples will vary depending on if the property is greater than 5000 sq ft or less than 5000 sq. ft.
3. We also collect a core samples that is divided into 3 samples – 0-6 inches, 6-12 inches and 12-18 inches to determine if there is contamination at depth. Additional samples can be collected from the drip zone around the house.
4. Samples are analyzed using XRF (X-ray Fluorescence) and are also sent to a lab for wet chemistry analysis. Samples sent to a lab are analyzed using methods SE-846, Method 7473 and methods 200.7 and 200.8. Samples analyzed by XRF use method 6200 for field portable XRF instrumentation.
5. For historical mining districts such as the Upper Animas watershed including Silverton, EPA analyzes the full suite of heavy metals including aluminum, beryllium, calcium, chromium, copper, iron, magnesium, manganese, zinc, antimony, arsenic, cadmium, lead, nickel, selenium, silver, thallium and mercury.

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From: John Wright [mailto:wrightjo@frontier.net]
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2015 12:53 PM
To: Schmittdiel, Paula
Subject: John Wright from Silverton writes

Greetings, Ms Schmittdiel.

I missed your presentation to the Silverton Board of Trustees for having been out of town, and only caught up with the matter on my return and a chance to read the local newspaper's reportage.

The image that accompanied the newspaper, described as an enhanced aerial photo indicating possible metal contaminated sites in and around Silverton, was indistinct. Do you have a high-resolution image(s) of same that you could transmit to me via e-mail, along with pertinent legend(s)?

Also, the newspaper account explains you (i.e. EPA) would like to conduct some initial soil sampling around town. Would you describe for me the following:

1. Type of initial sampling and depth (I presume soil cores, or backhoe ditch... to what depth?)
2. Sample assay/analysis method
3. Particular elements of interest or concern

Hope my request for information is not too burdensome, but equally hoping you can accommodate.

Thank you,

John

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